

Dear FCC,

My name is Jared Morris, I'm a talk radio host on WGMD News Radio 92.7 FM in Rehoboth Beach, DE, a blogger, and indie musician with the band My Version of It.

We've been discussing Network Neutrality on my radio program for the past few days, and I'm echoing the support of my listeners with a few stories.

One caller says, "in years we will look back on this time as a time of unprecedented freedoms of speech, and wonder what happened."

Another says, "this IS one of the most important issues of the day, why is no one discussing it?"

And it goes on and on, but I'm not writing to talk about my listeners, I'm here to talk about my own beliefs.

Without the current integrity of the Internet held in place, with Net Neutrality, we will suffer the biggest loss of Free Speech and accessibility that I can remember in recent memory in the United States.

As a talk show host on an independently owned radio station (in marked 130+), we live and die by free speech and community advertisers. Why cripple the very life blood of our community? Why allow it to be easier to quash the mom and pop businesses whose web sites and online activity are as integral to their survival as the walk-in customers? Why allow the possibility that micro-bloggers, local independent papers and opinion sites be lost in the shuffle, or worse, discriminated against by our ISPs? It is of the most vital importance that people of our community can go to our Web site, go to my blog, [www.jared-morris.com](http://www.jared-morris.com), download Podcasts, watch the Webcast of my radio show, get our merchandise, support our advertisers, connect w/ other listeners (via Twitter, Facebook, etc) and have their opinion heard (saynow.com, e-mail, facebook, blog comments, etc..) If the Net is limited by those against Net Neutrality, our business will suffer, our advertisers will suffer, our listeners will suffer, our free speech will suffer. When the local parent can't find our Web Site because the ISP has decided to bury it, on a snowy morning to find out if their school is closed, or, like today, to find out if their children were on that local bus that crashed, then it's a danger to the community, our listeners and America.

As a weekly contributor to The BBC in Sussex, England, I connect Delaware with the world via an Internet feed and discuss issues with another country because of the Internet, because of the accessibility, I then replay the audio on my radio show the next day, I can do that because of the way the Internet works now, We can do a live broadcast from a bookstore because we're hooked up to the internet, our colleague can do a radio show from Delaware for Latin America because of the Internet.

The community that we live in has very little choice over our ISPs; the argument that the competitive marketplace will weed out any ISP w/ unfair business practices or censorship is insane. In some areas if we don't use ComCast, we don't use the Internet, in other places it's Verizon, in others it's MediaCom, but there is very little choice for some communities that within the last year or two JUST got high speed internet. When you live in an area where Verizon is installing FIOS! is a big news story, there is no choice, and it borders on a monopoly. These ISPs can't dictate what our community views.

I'm also a member, singer, songwriter and guitarist for the independent band My Version of It, because the way the internet is currently, with in the last few months, I've been able to reissue all of our albums, connect with fans on Twitter, create a T-shirt/Merchandise shop, begin to self publish a book and make all of our music available on iTunes and Amazon.com as mp3 downloads. Before the last few years, the only way I could connect w/ anyone interested in my music was our Web site, [www.myversionofit.com](http://www.myversionofit.com), or connect one-by-one in person. We've been struggling in the music business for 10 years, but w/in the last few months we've been able to promote ourselves and get our music out in an unprecedented way.

Again, we don't live in New York or LA, it's nearly impossible to stand out these days, with a little elbow grease, some PHP knowledge and knowing how to use iTunes, our music is now available globally, and for four poor musicians who can't even afford to get a CD pressed let alone an international promotional campaign, for our art, for my life's work, it's the coolest and most important thing in my life that people can hear, talk about, purchase and FIND OUT about my band.

Like R.E.M. said, this isn't the 1980s, the game has changed and we need the internet or we'll just be playing in that bar, the one I took a day off of work to get to, the one I lost wages to play at, the one we prepared for for months, the one that cost us \$40 to get to, the one we played our heart out.. You know.. the one we played to 4 people and made \$9. That's our life, that's our band w/o the Internet.

For our band, for my radio show, for my radio station, for our advertisers, for our listeners and for all the aspiring artists, future fans, future listeners and children who will create the new world for us to live in when we get older, FCC, please support Net Neutrality and SAVE THE INTERNET

More than 1.7 million Americans have already called on Washington to protect Net Neutrality – the rule that keeps control over the Internet in the hands of the people who use it.

The FCC must now act decisively in the public interest by enacting strong rules that keep the Internet free from blocking, censorship and discrimination.

Don't give in to pressure from AT&T, Comcast, Verizon and their lobbyists. Stand with us in support of a strong Net Neutrality rule.

Sincerely,

Jared Morris

Talk Host, Operations Dir, Musician

WGMD News Radio

My Version of It

Rehoboth Beach, DE

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